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Integrity First, is at the core of the Air Force way of life according to the general.

"We have to trust one another," he said. "At the most fundamental level, when a pilot steps into the airplane he or she has to trust that the crew chief has done everything possible to prepare the airplane for flight. The pilot is betting his or her life on it."

"Whether you're talking security forces, flightline or any other career field, we have to trust each other's word and one another's work."

Service Before Self is what the military is all about according to Begert.

"We serve a cause greater than ourselves," Begert said. "Each of us, in the course of our service, may have to give up our lives willingly to get the mission done for our country."

"As busy as our people are, as much as we challenge them for the time and their talents, it is clear to me that the force understands that concept," he said.

And finally, Excellence in All We Do is the way that "the Air Force has to get the mission done if we are going to remain the number one Air Force in the world," the commander said.

"We should never take anything for granted. We are constantly pushing the envelope on technology and on newer ways to use that technology. We are inventing new ways to do business all the time like we have always done in the Air Force."

Adherence to the core values, according to Begert, isn't genuine if people practice them only when directed.

"We live and breathe these core values when we come to work," Begert said. "But, more importantly we need to live our personal lives that way too."

"Your word should be your bond," the commander said. "Whether it is to your children, spouse, friend or in a private transaction, it's critical that you can be trusted."

"As members of a local community it is important that each of us become involved in that community, whether that is being involved with the local school, or other community organizations," he said.

Begert believes people should strive to be the best person they can be.

"We ought to be able to live our whole life abiding by those core values," Begert said.

Retention

Building a solid Air Force community with people that embody these values is what the Air Force needs, Begert said.

"We don't want to retain everybody in the Air Force—we want to retain the right people," he said. "It just so happens that in the Air Force we are blessed with the fact that the majority of our people do value these principals. They are men and women who understand and live by our core values. It is their culture," he said.

To help in the Air Force's retention efforts, Begert asked



Begert

commanders and supervisors to make sure they recognize their people for a job well done.

"My experience with most airmen is that they don't mind working long hours as long as it is for a good cause, for the right reasons and that they are recognized in some small way," Begert said. "Sometimes all that is, is a 'thank you.' It's not hard and doesn't cost a thing."

Begert pointed out that when people understand that what they do is important and appreciated, then they'll stick around.

"We just need to build an environment where that takes place," he said.

To help build this environment in the command Begert plans to make it mandatory for all squadron commanders to have monthly commanders' calls.

"I think one of the things that makes the Air Force unique is that sense of personal contact we have with our airmen from the top to the bottom," he said.

Commanders' calls help airmen understand the people who command them from the squadron level on up the chain, according to the PACAF commander.

Quality of Life

Philosophically, quality of life is not just facilities, according to Begert.

"It is also high quality in one's life that is important," Begert said. "That goes back to the core values, back to the pride in wearing the uniform properly, and back to the pride in being in shape."

"It is how we in the Air Force choose to live our lives—we choose to live a life of high quality," he said.

The commander also plans to improve quality of life with respect to facilities both at home and work.

"We need to improve areas like our child care centers, fitness centers and clubs. We also need to improve the places where we work every day," the general said.

Begert expressed his concern that many facilities where PACAF people work are not up to Air Force standards.

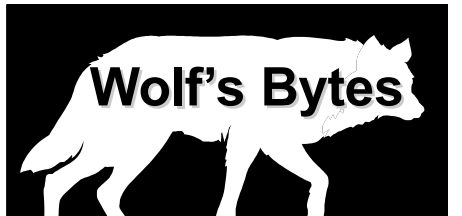
"They are not quality work places," he said. "It drives me crazy to see someone working on a \$50 million asset in a building that is decrepit and falling down. It's not the message we want to send."

The PACAF commander plans to do all he can to get the resources to fix these facilities in the command.

Goals

During his tour, Begert said he wants to concentrate on two important things.

"Very simply, we want to get the mission done safely while preparing the command for the challenges of the future," Begert said. "To be the leader of a command with the rich history of PACAF is a great honor. I've been wearing the Air Force uniform for almost 37 years and I've never been so excited about an assignment."



In March of 2000, natural disaster struck in Mozambique. The country was devastated by rain and floods. Most of the country was underwater. Millions of people were displaced, entire villages lost. The U.S. Air Force led a humanitarian recovery effort that began almost immediately. We worked with other agencies like the Red Cross and other air forces from around the world to provide humanitarian relief for the situation. At one point, the commander of the combined effort—then 3rd Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Wherle, now a lieutenant general and the U.S. Air Force Plans and Programs commander—noticed one of the other nations' air force had its people working 18-20 hours a day. He talked to the officer in charge, asking why he was working his people so hard. The reply: "We are trying to keep up with the U.S. Air Force. You have the best Air Force in the world—no one comes close." When Gen. Wherle told that story, the phrase "No one comes close" became the slogan for our Air Force.

Commitment.

We can say that because of the commitment and competence of our people—your service buddies volunteering to take on the challenge of the U.S. Air Force. People willing to commit themselves to a set of ideals and values that embody the best of the United States, willing to commit to an organization that allows them to accomplish far more than we could ever dream. Witnessing the effort in Mozambique we saved thousands of lives—we did things no one else could do. Witness the Air War over Serbia, we were part of a team that stopped genocide. Again, saving countless lives and allowing families to dream and achieve a better life for their children. Witness the Gulf War, standing up to a dictator devoid of human decency who thought his neighbors' countries, people and possessions were there for the taking. But, these accomplishments do not come without cost. We lost U.S. Air Force people in Mozambique and the Gulf War. The aftermath of the Gulf War and the AWOS still requires large sacrifices from U.S. Air Force personnel.

No one comes close.

Because of the sacrifices you make and continue to make on a daily basis to be part of something bigger than yourselves, no one comes close. I don't need to tell anyone in the Wolf Pack about service before self—you live it every day. And last week, we again witnessed the sacrifices our U.S. Air Force people and Wolf Pack members make as we mourned the loss of one of our own—1st. Lt. Randy Murff.

Randy was a great guy and like the rest of us, a man with many aspects to his life: a son, friend, fiancé, fighter pilot and a U.S. Air Force officer. Now, he is part of a long line of Americans who served their country and made the ultimate sacrifice. That doesn't make him faceless, rather it should personalize the loss of the many who have gone before Randy—those airmen who also made the ultimate sacrifice. Words can't ease the pain of his loss. But, like any family, we can draw strength from each other, pick each other up and continue the work of the U.S. Air Force. We can closely examine how we contribute to the accomplishment of our mission. Look to see how well we are pulling our weight. We can examine how well we are serving both our country and the people working next to us. We can look at our processes to see if there is something we can do better to ensure that a tragedy like this does not happen again. We can make the U.S. Air Force a better organization. And, we can honor the memory of Randy and his many brothers and sisters at arms who have gone before him.

I cannot begin to tell you how proud I was to be a member of the Wolf Pack last Friday. The turnout for the memorial service, the obvious respect paid to our fallen comrade, the feeling of family. It was obvious to me....

The United States Air Force and the Wolf Pack....No one comes close.

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said of military service: "I can imagine no more rewarding career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United

States Navy.'" That sentiment rings very true for me. As you know, I am deeply proud of my Navy career.

But, today we are in a new century, with new opportunities, new challenges, new capabilities, and vastly different

threats to the security of our great nation. In this century, men and women can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: "I serve in the United States Air Force." And now, I am proud to be able to say that too.



**Staff Sgt.
Bobbie Jo Emory**



Pride of the Pack

Job: NCO in charge, Resource and Information Management, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 613

Hometown: Palmyra, Pa.

Follow-on: McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

Family: Son, Bryan and daughter, Taylor

Hobbies: Listening and dancing to Country music

Nominees are selected for outstanding service and dedication to their unit. To nominate an individual, contact the member's group commander.